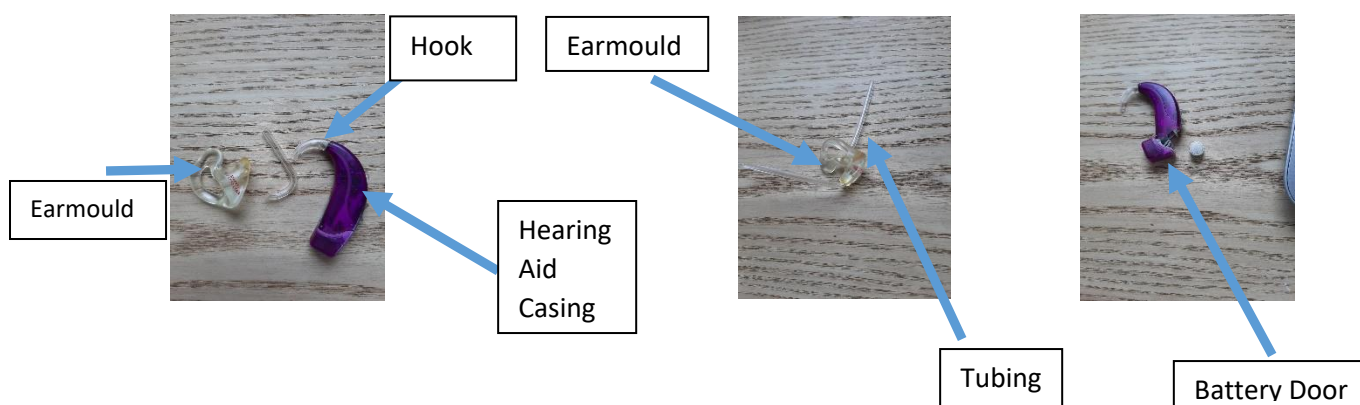


## Hearing Aid Care and Maintenance

For optimum listening and language development, the goal for children is to wear their hearing aids 'all waking hours.' A weekly routine for care and maintenance of hearing aids should be undertaken by parents. SNAs and teachers support good usage and help children to develop sound awareness. With adult models of practice for maintenance, hygiene and sound checks, children learn to value their hearing aids and manage them with increasing independence. Please follow public health advice in relation to Covid-19.

### Maintenance Routine

Begin with a clean surface with sufficient space for work



### Visual Inspection for Dirt/ Damage/ Wear and Tear

- Gently pull tubing from the hook on the hearing aid to separate
- Gently pull tubing from earmould
- Examine casing for cracks. Make sure the battery door and any controls or switches are working (if not contact audiologist)
- Examine hook for cracks or missing filters
- Examine tubing and earmould for cracks, rough edges
- Examine tubing and earmould for wax, dirt or hardening of material
- Determine what needs to be cleaned or replaced - anything cracked, damaged or missing should be replaced. Everything else should be cleaned
- **Never submerge the hearing aid in water**

## Cleaning and Replacing Parts

### Earmould

- Remove wax with soft toothbrush or wipes
- Wash in mild soapy water- soak for ten minutes maximum
- Rinse thoroughly, allowing water to run through the mould
- Dry the outside and shake to remove excess water
- Use the puffer to **ensure all moisture is removed**

### Tubing

- If tubing is blocked, run under warm soapy water until clear. Rinse. Dry. Use puffer to eliminate moisture (most children like to help with this)
- If tubing is **hard, brittle or very unclean, replace it**

### To Replace Tubing:

- Once tubing is removed from earmould and hook, save the old tube as you need it for measuring
- Take a new piece of pre-bent tubing
- Find the pointed end of the tube and thread it into the large hole at the back of the mould. Pull it through
- Pull the pointed end of plastic that emerges at the tip of the mould. Keep pulling until the opposite end of the tube stands almost upright
- Use a small sharp scissors to cut the tube close to the tip of the earmould. Make sure this cut is flush with tip so as not to cause irritation
- Now that you have fitted the tubing into the earmould, take the old piece of tubing that you saved and use it to measure the correct length for the new tube. Cut to match (or allow a margin of error by cutting it slightly longer)
- Next, push the tube onto the hook of the hearing aid. Hold both gently but firmly and push until tube is securely in place
- Check that the earmould is positioned correctly with the pointed tip facing inward toward the ear.
- Try the aid on the child to make sure it sits well and comfortably. If the aid slips off the ear then the tubing is too long. Leave hearing aid in place on child, mark correct length with pen then remove from child and trim tube
- If the child finds hearing aid is uncomfortable at the top of the ear, then the tubing may be too short (you will have to start process again)
- With all parts cleaned and in place, carry out a hearing check